



0073891

Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550  
Richland, Washington 99352

07-ESQ-157

SEP 7 2007

Mr. C. M. Murphy, President  
and Chief Executive Officer  
Fluor Hanford, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1000  
Richland, Washington 99352

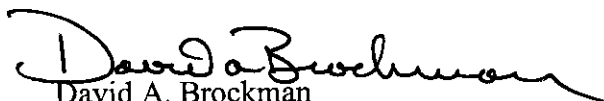
Dear Mr. Murphy:

CONTRACT NO. DE-AC06-RL13200 – APPROVAL OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR  
CLEANUP OF TRASH DUMP SITES ON THE RIVERLAND UNIT, 600 AREA, HANFORD  
SITE, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON

The purpose of the letter is to respond to your letter (FH-0701945) requesting the  
U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office's review and approval of the subject  
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Categorical Exclusion dated August 17, 2007. The  
Categorical Exclusion was signed by the NEPA Compliance Officer on August 30, 2007:  
Attached is a signed copy of the Categorical Exclusion.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Joe R. Franco, Assistant  
Manager for the River Corridor, on (509) 376-6628.

Sincerely,

  
David A. Brockman  
Manager

ESQ:RWR

Attachments:

1. Categorical Exclusion
2. Biological Review
3. Cultural Resources Review

cc w/attachs:

M. T. Jansky, FHI  
J. L. Nuzum, FHI  
M. S. Strickland, FHI  
G. H. Hughes, USFWS  
Administrative Record  
Environmental Portal

**RECEIVED**  
SEP 11 2007  
**EDMC**

Attachment 1  
07-ESQ-157

Categorical Exclusion for Cleanup of Trash Dump Sites on the  
Riverlands Unit, 600 Area, Hanford Site, Richland, Washington

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR  
CLEANUP OF TRASH DUMP SITES ON THE RIVERLANDS UNIT,  
600 AREA, HANFORD SITE, RICHLAND, WASHINGTON**

**Proposed Action**

The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL), needs to clean up trash dump sites on the Riverlands Unit of the Hanford Reach National Monument. At present, there are thirteen (13) known sites where public dumping has occurred. Activities previously have been initiated to better control public access (security gate) and awareness (No Trespassing signs) regarding the Riverlands Unit.

**Location of Action**

600 Area, Riverlands Unit, Hanford Site, Richland, Washington. The Riverlands Unit is located in the northwest corner of the Hanford Site, bordered by State Highway 24, the Columbia River, and private land in the Cold Creek Valley (Figure 1).

**Description of Proposed Action**

The proposed action would involve cleanup of known trash dump sites on the Riverlands Unit. Examples of miscellaneous trash consist of tires, furniture, spent oil containers, domestic garbage and tree branches; there are 12 sites where miscellaneous trash has been dumped. One other site is a sewage dump site; this site will be covered with up to 12 inches of clean top soil/sandy loam.

Cleanup activities are scheduled to start in FY 2007 and be completed in FY 2007.

**Categorical Exclusion (CX) to be Applied**

The following CX is listed in Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1021, "National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures," Subpart D, Appendix B, published in the Tuesday, July 9, 1996, 61 Federal Register 36222:

B6.1 Small-scale, short-term cleanup actions, under RCRA, Atomic Energy Act, or other authorities, less than approximately 5 million dollars in cost and 5 years duration, to reduce risk to human health or the environment from the release or threat of release of a hazardous substance other than high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel, including treatment (e.g., incineration), recovery storage, or disposal of wastes at existing facilities currently handling the type of waste involved in the action. These actions include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Excavation or consolidation of contaminated soils or materials from drainage channels, retention basins, ponds, and spill areas that are not receiving contaminated surface water or wastewater, if surface water or groundwater would not collect and if such actions would reduce the spread of, or direct contact with, the contamination;
- (b) Removal of bulk containers (for example, drums, barrels) that contain or may contain hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, CERCLA-excluded petroleum or

- natural gas products, or hazardous wastes (designated in 40 CFR part 261 or applicable state requirements), if such actions would reduce the likelihood of spillage, leakage, fire, explosion, or exposure to humans, animals, or the food chain;
- (c) Removal of an underground storage tank including its associated piping and underlying containment systems in compliance with RCRA, subtitle I; 40 CFR part 265, subpart J; and 40 CFR part 280, subparts F and G if such action would reduce the likelihood of spillage, leakage, or the spread of, or direct contact with, contamination;
  - (d) Repair or replacement of leaking containers;
  - (e) Capping or other containment of contaminated soils or sludges if the capping or containment would not affect future groundwater remediation and if needed to reduce migration of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products into soil, groundwater, surface water, or air;
  - (f) Drainage or closing of man-made surface impoundments if needed to maintain the integrity of the structures;
  - (g) Confinement or perimeter protection using dikes, trenches, ditches, diversions, or installing underground barriers, if needed to reduce the spread of, or direct contact with, the contamination;
  - (h) Stabilization, but not expansion, of berms, dikes, impoundments, or caps if needed to maintain integrity of the structures;
  - (i) Drainage controls (for example, run-off or run-on diversion) if needed to reduce offsite migration of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum or natural gas products or to prevent precipitation or run-off from other sources from entering the release area from other areas;
  - (j) Segregation of wastes that may react with one another or form a mixture that could result in adverse environmental impacts;
  - (k) Use of chemicals and other materials to neutralize the pH of wastes;
  - (l) Use of chemicals and other materials to retard the spread of the release or to mitigate its effects if the use of such chemicals would reduce the spread of, or direct contact with, the contamination;
  - (m) Installation and operation of gas ventilation systems in soil to remove methane or petroleum vapors without any toxic or radioactive co-contaminants if appropriate filtration or gas treatment is in place;
  - (n) Installation of fences, warning signs, or other security or site control precautions if humans or animals have access to the release; and
  - (o) Provision of an alternative water supply that would not create new water sources if necessary immediately to reduce exposure to contaminated household or industrial use water and continuing until such time as local authorities can satisfy the need for a permanent remedy.

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Since there are no extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal, the proposed activity meets the eligibility criteria of 10 CFR 1021.410(b), as shown in the following table. The proposed activity is not "connected" to other actions with potentially significant impacts [40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)], or with cumulatively significant impacts [40 CFR 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 10 CFR 1021.211.

The "Integral Elements" of 10 CFR 1021 are satisfied as discussed below.

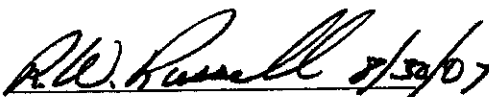
<b>INTEGRAL ELEMENTS 10 CFR 1021, SUBPART D, APPENDIX B</b>	
<b>Would the Proposed Action:</b>	<b>Comment or explanation:</b>
Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders?	No applicable laws, regulations, or orders would be violated by the proposed actions.
Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery or treatment facilities (including incinerators)? The proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery or treatment actions.	Wastes generated during the proposed action would not require expansion/modification of existing waste management facilities.
Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases?	No. There would be no uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.
Adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources including, but not limited to:  (i) Property (e.g., sites, buildings, structures, objects) of historic, archeological, or architectural significance designated by Federal, state, or local governments or property eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (ii) Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat (including critical habitat), Federally-proposed or candidate species or their habitat or state-listed endangered or threatened species or their habitat (iii) Wetlands regulated under the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) and floodplains (iv) Federally- and state-designated wilderness areas, national parks, national natural landmarks, wild and scenic rivers, state and Federal wildlife refuges, and marine sanctuaries (v) Prime agricultural lands (vi) Special sources of water (such as sole-source aquifers, wellhead protection areas, and other water sources that are vital in a region) (vii) Tundra, coral reefs, or rainforests?	None of the environmentally sensitive resources listed (i through vii) will be adversely affected.

## CULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES REVIEWS

A cultural resources review specifically for the project was conducted [E-mail, D. McFarland, PNNL, to R. Ingram, et al, "Cultural Resources Review Notice to Proceed: Cleanup of Riverlands Area (NPCE# 2007-600-019b)," dated July 20, 2007]. Per 36 CFR Part 800, Subpart B, 800.3.a, the DOE-RL Cultural Resources Program has determined that this project is not the type of undertaking with potential to cause effects to historic properties and no further actions are required. All workers will be directed to watch for cultural materials (e.g., bones, artifacts) during all work activities. If any such materials are encountered, work in the vicinity of the discovery would stop pending any necessary mitigation.

A biological review specifically for the project was conducted (Letter, M. Sackschewsky, PNNL, to R. Ingram, FH, "Biological Review of the Project, 600 Area, ECR #2007-600-019B, Clean up of 12 Trash Dump Sites on the Riverlands Unit," dated July 24, 2007). The review indicated that no plant or animal species protected under the Endangered Species Act, candidates for such protection, or species listed by the Washington State government as threatened or endangered are likely to be impacted by project activities. It is recommended that activities should be conducted in a manner to minimize ground disturbance and to avoid spreading noxious weeds into uninfested areas of the Riverlands Unit. Ground disturbance and heavy equipment use at several of the dump sites should be conducted to minimize damage to mature sagebrush shrubs that are adjacent to and within the dump sites. The clean top soil could be seeded with native perennial grasses in late September or October of 2007 to avoid increase in weedy species.

**Compliance Action:** I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for the referenced CX. Therefore, using the authority delegated to me by DOE Order 451.1B, Change 1, I have determined that the proposed activities may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

Signature/Date:  8/29/07  
R. W. Russell  
Hanford NEPA Compliance Officer

cc:

R. L. Ingram, FH  
M. T. Jansky, FH  
B. B. Nelson-Maki, FH  
A. L. Rodriguez, RL  
R. G. Slocum, FH  
C. W. Stolle, FH  
R. S. Weeks, PNNL

The following checklist summarizes environmental impacts that were considered

#### IMPACT TO AIR

	Would the proposed action:	YES	NO
1.	Result in more than minor and temporary gaseous discharges to the environment?		X
2.	Release other than nominal and temporary particulates or drops to the atmosphere?		X
3.	Result in more than minor thermal discharges?		X
4.	Increase offsite radiation dose to >0.1 mrem (40 CFR 61 Subpart H)?		X

#### IMPACT TO WATER

	Would the proposed action:	YES	NO
5.	Discharge any liquids to the environment?		X
6.	Discharge heat to surface or subsurface water?		X
7.	Release soluble solids to natural waters?		X
8.	Provide Interconnection between aquifers?		X
9.	Require installation of wells?		X
10.	Require a Spill Prevention Countermeasure and Control Plan (40 CFR 112 and 761).		X
11.	Violate water quality standards (WAC 713-200, Table 1)		X

#### IMPACT TO LAND

	Would the proposed action:	YES	NO
12.	Conflict with existing zoning or land use?		X
13.	Involve hazardous, radioactive, PCB, or asbestos waste?		X
14.	Cause erosion?		X
15.	Require an excavation permit?	X	
16.	Disturb an undeveloped area?	X	

#### GENERAL

	Would the proposed action:	YES	NO
17.	Disturb Arid Lands Ecology or Wahluke Slope Reserves		X
18.	Cause other than a minor increase in noise level?		X
19.	Make a long-term commitment of large quantities of nonrenewable resources?		X
20.	Require new utilities or modifications to utilities?		X
21.	Use pesticides, carcinogens, or toxic chemicals?		X
22.	Require a radiation work permit?		X

Items marked "yes" in the Environmental Impact Checklist located above, are addressed in the following paragraphs:

15. Before starting work, an excavation permit would be required. The excavation permit would be consistent with the biological and cultural resources reviews identified previously.
16. The Riverlands Unit is an undeveloped area. As noted in the biological review (ECR #2007-600-019B), activities should be conducted in a manner to minimize ground disturbance and to avoid spreading noxious weeds into uninfested areas of the Riverlands Unit. Ground disturbance and heavy equipment use at several of the dump sites should be conducted to minimize damage to mature sagebrush shrubs that are adjacent to and within the dump sites.



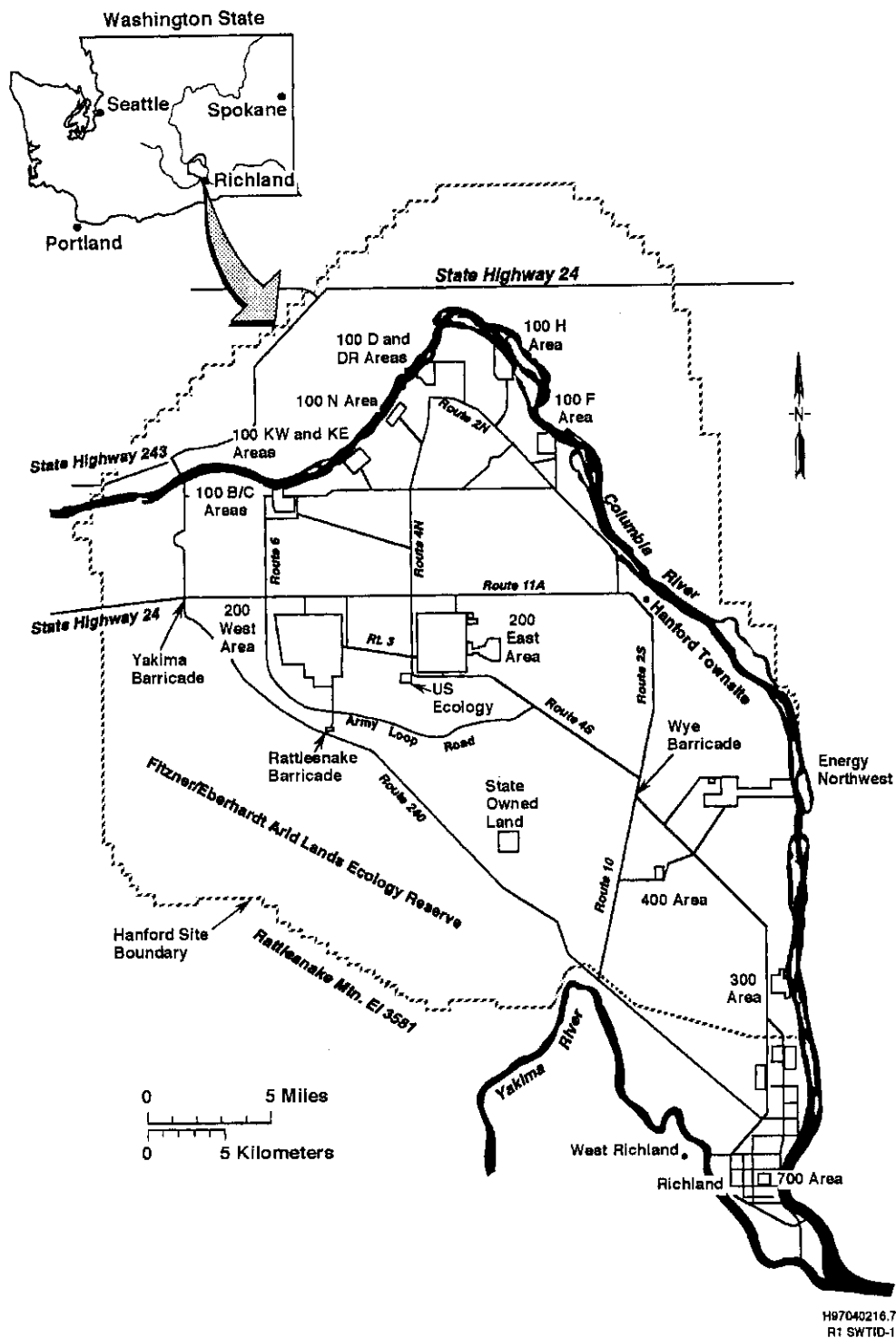


Figure 1. Hanford Site.

Attachment 2  
07-ESQ-157

Biological Review of the Project, 600 Area, ECR #2007-600-019B.  
Cleanup of 12 Trash Dump Sites on the Riverlands Unit

# Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Operated by Battelle for the  
U.S. Department of Energy

July 24, 2007

Mr. Ron Ingram  
Facilities and Land Management  
Fluor Hanford  
MO-276/129/200E  
Richland, WA 99352

Dear Mr. Ingram:

BIOLOGICAL REVIEW OF THE PROJECT, 600AREA, ECR #2007-600-019B. CLEAN UP OF 12 TRASH DUMP SITES ON THE RIVERLANDS UNIT.

## Project Description:

- The project involves cleanup of 12 dump sites located on the Riverlands Unit north and west of Vernita and includes placement of up to 12 inches of clean top soil/sandy loam on a sewage dump site in the same general area.

## Survey Objectives:

- Determine the occurrence in the project area of plant and animal species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), candidates for such protection, and species listed as threatened, endangered, candidate, sensitive, or monitor by the state of Washington, and species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).
- Evaluate and quantify the potential impacts of disturbance on priority habitats and protected plant and animal species identified in the survey.

## Survey Methods:

- Pedestrian and visual reconnaissance of the proposed project site was performed by J.L. Downs and M.R. Sackschewsky on 31 May 2007. The percent cover of dominant vegetation was visually estimated.
- Priority habitats and species of concern are documented in: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (2007a, 2007b), and Washington State Department of Natural Resources (2007). Lists of animal and plant species considered Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, or Candidate by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are maintained at 50 CFR

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17.11 and 50 CFR 17.12; the list of birds protected under the MBTA is maintained at 50 CFR 10.13.

### Survey Results:

- The vegetation in the Riverlands Unit is composed of a mosaic of mature shrub-steppe habitats and more disturbed successional habitats composed of native grasses and weedy annual species. Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) is prevalent in certain areas of the site. Sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*) and gray rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*) are common dominant shrubs of the areas surveyed. Mature sagebrush-steppe habitats qualify as priority habitats and constitute an important biological resource on the Hanford Site. Because the dump sites are located along existing, unimproved dirt/gravel roadways, the vegetation at most of these 12 sites supports a higher proportion of weedy species than is usually found further from transportation routes. In particular, diffuse knapweed (tumble knapweed, *Centaurea diffusa*), occurs around and under several of the dump sites. This species is a Class B noxious weed in Washington.
- No migratory bird species were observed nesting in the vicinity of the proposed site. However, migratory bird species noted adjacent to dump sites included the loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), Western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), and horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*). The Western kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*) was also noted in the vicinity.

### Considerations and Recommendations:

- No plant or animal species protected under the ESA, candidates for such protection, or species listed by the Washington state government as threatened or endangered were observed in the vicinity of the proposed sites.
- Adverse impacts to species, habitats, or other biological resources are unlikely to result from the proposed action. However, ground-disturbing activities, such as those associated with the use of heavy equipment to load or transfer trash to be removed, present the potential for spread and increase of noxious weedy species. Activities should be conducted in a manner to minimize ground disturbance and to avoid spreading noxious weeds into uninfested areas of the Riverlands Unit. When feasible, wheels and undercarriages of vehicles traveling into the area should be washed to minimize transport of weed seeds to and from the dump sites.

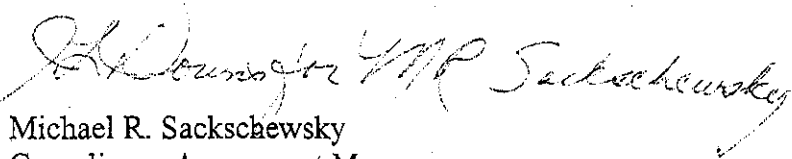
Mr. Ron Ingram

2007-600-019B

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- Ground disturbance and heavy equipment use at several of the dump sites, such as site 8 and site 10, should be conducted to minimize damage to mature sagebrush shrubs that are adjacent to and within the dump sites.
- Applying clean topsoil to the sewage dump site may provide a site for further establishment and invasion of weedy species. To avoid increase in weedy species, the clean top soil could be seeded with native perennial grasses in late September or October of 2007.
- This Ecological Compliance Review is valid until 15 April 2008.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Sackschewsky  
Compliance Assessment Manager  
Ecological Monitoring and Compliance Project

LB:mr

## REFERENCES

- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2007a. Species of Special Concern in Washington. WDFW web site <http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/diversty/soc/soc.htm>.
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2007b. Priority Habitats and Species List. WDFW web site. <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phshabs.htm>.
- Washington Department of Natural Resources. 2007. Washington Natural Heritage Information System Plant Ranks. <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/nhp/refdesk/lists/planttrnk.html>.

bcc: BJ Dixon, FHI R3-32  
W Russell, RL H6-60  
KA Gano, BHI HO-23  
DC Ward, RL A2-15  
Environmental Portal A3-01  
ECAP/File/LB

Gabe Bohnne  
Nez Perce Tribe  
P.O. Box 365  
Lapwai, ID 83540-0365

Attachment 3  
07-ESQ-157

Cultural Resources Review (Email) of the Project, 600 Area,  
ECR #2007-600-019B. Cleanup of 12 Trash Dump Sites on the  
Riverlands Unit

**Gano, Becky**

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**From:** Ingram, Ronald L  
**Sent:** Monday, July 23, 2007 11:37 AM  
**To:** Jansky, Michael T  
**Subject:** FW: Cultural Resources Review Notice To Proceed: Cleanup of Riverlands Area (NPCE# 2007-600-019b)

Is this what you need for the cultural resource review?

---

**From:** McFarland, Douglas P [mailto:douglas.mcfarland@pnl.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 20, 2007 9:03 AM  
**To:** Ingram, Ronald L; Yancey, Edward F (Ed)  
**Cc:** Rodriguez, Annabelle L; Prendergast-Kennedy, Ellen L; McFarland, Douglas P  
**Subject:** Cultural Resources Review Notice To Proceed: Cleanup of Riverlands Area (NPCE# 2007-600-019b)

Mr. Ingram and Mr. Yancey

Thank you for contacting our office regarding your project. The project area is located near the Vernita Bridge on the south side of the river, 600 Area, Hanford Site. The project activities consist of cleaning up 12 illegal dump sites within the Riverlands area. Should contaminants/leaks etc. be found that may warrant further investigation e.g. excavation, that activity would then be covered under a separate review.

Per 36 CFR Part 800, Subpart B, 800.3.a, the DOE-RL Cultural Resources Program has determined that this project is **not** the type of undertaking with potential to cause effects to historic properties and no further actions are required. The finding is based on the following:

- Aerial photographs confirm disturbance in this location.
- It has been determined that activities will have low impact.

All workers should be directed to watch for cultural materials (e.g. bones, artifacts) during all work activities. If any are encountered, work in the vicinity of the discovery must stop until an HCRP archaeologist has been notified, assessed the significance of the find, and, if necessary arranged for mitigation of the impacts to the find. Please contact Doug McFarland or Ellen Prendergast-Kennedy, HCRP, if any changes to project location or scope are anticipated.

For tracking purposes, NPCE# 2007-600-019b has been assigned to your request.

Again, thank you for contacting us regarding your project.

Doug McFarland  
Research Scientist/Archaeologist  
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory  
PO Box 999, MSIN: K6-75  
Richland, WA 99352  
phone (509) 372-1079  
E-mail: [douglas.mcfarland@pnl.gov](mailto:douglas.mcfarland@pnl.gov)  
<http://www.hanford.gov/doe/history/>

8/31/2007